Cook with Champagne for a sparkling New Year's Eve | 23

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Wednesday

AP

FLEXING ITS MUSCLES

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EXPRESS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

HOW COULD A BOMB GET ON BOARD?

When Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab strolled onto Flight 253, the would-be bomber confirmed what critics have warned for years: The high-tech security systems promised after 9/11 are dangerously behind schedule. PAGE 7

eo

EYE OPENERS

That Decor Is Striking

A woman says in a negligence lawsuit filed last week that a stuffed moose head plummeted off a wall and onto her head at the Scandinavian-themed White Slab Palace on Oct. 4. Raina Kumra says she suffered a concussion and other injuries after being hit by the 150-pound moose head, adorned with 3-foot-wide antlers. The owner of the Lower East Side restaurant didn't immediately return a telephone message. Nor did Kumra, who is representing herself in the case. **(AP)**

"I suppose the guy I stole the car from gets to keep the phone."

— **DAMIEN ANDERSON,** WHO COMPLAINED **TO POLICE THAT HE'D LEFT HIS PHONE IN THE PIZZA-DELIVERY CAR HE STOLE AT A GAS STATION IN NEWPORT, MINN.**

Accept This Small Toke-in Of My Affection

Authorities confiscated a marijuana-stuffed teddy bear at a Ladera Ranch, Calif., toy store. The owner of Toy Town said Monday that he got the package last week, opened it up and found a 2-foot-tall blue teddy bear that felt "hard and crinkly." The bear turned out to be stuffed with three large, vacuum-sealed packages of pot. Owner Joshua Vecchione says he called Orange County sheriff's officials. **(AP)**

The Big Picture

HO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IT TOOK BIOLOGISTS TWO YEARS to breed see-through goldfish, whose beating hearts can be seen through their scales and skin. The transparent fish were developed at Mie University and Nagoya University in Japan to reduce the need for dissections in the laboratory. **(EXPRESS)**

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President: Air Failure 'Systemic'

Obama wants initial results from security review by next week

Honolulu

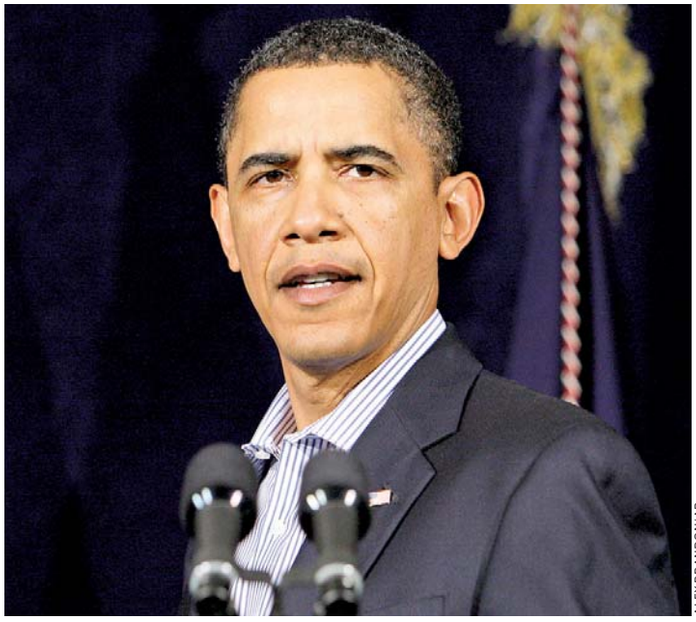
President Obama said Tuesday "a systemic failure" allowed the attempted Christmas Day attack on a Detroit-bound flight from Amsterdam. He called it "totally unacceptable."

The president said he wants preliminary results by Thursday from two investigations he has ordered to examine the many lapses that occurred.

"There was a mix of human and systemic failures that contributed to this potential catastrophic breach of security," Obama said.

It will take weeks for a more comprehensive investigation into what allowed a 23-year-old Nigerian carrying explosives onto the flight despite the fact the suspect had possible ties to al-Qaeda, Obama said.

"It's essential that we diagnose the problems quickly," the president said, interrupting his vacation for a second consecutive day to address the incident.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Obama says the problems in U.S. air security must be diagnosed quickly.

The suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, was on one advisory list, but never made it onto more restrictive lists that would have caught the attention of U.S. counterterrorist screeners.

Obama said many things went right after the incident, with passengers and the flight crew subduing the man and government officials working quickly to increase security.

Obama singled out his homeland security secretary, Janet Napolitano, backing her much-criticized comments that the attempted terror attack showed the aviation security system worked.

"As Secretary Napolitano has said, once the suspect attempted to take down Flight 253, after his attempt, it's clear that passengers and crew, our homeland security systems, and our aviation security took all appropriate actions," Obama said.

Republicans are questioning Napolitano's judgment and a few have called for her resignation. The White House says her job is safe.

PHILIP ELLIOTT (AP)

Priority Position

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Tuesday said he will force a vote in three weeks on the nomination of Erroll Southers to head the Transportation Security Administration. The post remains vacant because Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., has held up President Obama's nominee in an effort to prevent TSA workers from joining a labor union. An acting administrator is in place at the TSA, which oversees airport security. (TWP)

JIM COLE/AP

Firefighters decontaminate items at the University of New Hampshire.

Anthrax Spores Investigated in New Hampshire

Concord, N.H.

New Hampshire officials are trying to determine whether a drum circle gathering is the source of what they say is the nation's first known case of gastrointestinal anthrax.

Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, an adviser to the state's public health division, says the anthrax spores may have become airborne through vigorous drum playing, and the woman who fell ill swallowed them.

Officials shut down the United Campus Ministry center in Durham, where spores were found on drums and an electrical outlet. They said vaccines and antibiotics would be available to people who may have been exposed to the spores. (AP)

CREATURES

Last month, marine scientists counted more than 1,500 sea lions on San Fransisco's fabled Pier 39, a record number that delighted tourists and baffled experts. But now, almost all the sea lions are gone, leaving the experts guessing where they went — and why. The animals began leaving in droves the day after Thanksgiving, almost as if someone had issued an order. Experts say the herd was probably following food and will be back in the spring. (AP)

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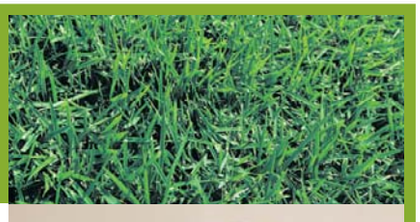

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Nation

GPS Phone Aids Illegals

Artists' device helps migrants find water after crossing border

San Diego

A group of California artists wants Mexicans and Central Americans to have more than just a few cans of tuna and a jug of water for their illegal trek through the harsh desert into the U.S.

Faculty at University of California, San Diego are developing a GPS-enabled cell phone that tells dehydrated migrants where to find water and pipes in poetry from phone speakers, regaling them on their journey much like Emma Lazarus' words did a century ago to the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free" on Ellis Island.

The Transborder Immigrant Tool is part technology endeavor, part art project. It introduces a high-tech twist to an old debate about how far activists can go to prevent migrants from dying on the border without breaking the law.

LENNY IGNELZI/AP

Brett Stalbaum uses the cell phone that helps illegal immigrants track down water.

Immigration hardliners argue the activists are aiding illegal entry to the United States, a felony. Even migrants and their sympathizers question whether the device will make the treacherous journeys easier.

The designers are undeterred as they criticize a U.S. policy they say embraces illegal immigrants for cheap labor while letting them die crossing the border.

"It's about giving water to somebody who's dying in the desert of dehydration," said Micha Cardenas, 32, a UCSD lecturer.

The effort is being done on the government's dime — an irony not lost on the designers whose salaries are paid by the state of California.

"There are many, many areas in which every American would say I don't like the way my tax dollars are being spent. Our answer to that is an in-your-face, so what?" says UCSD lecturer Brett Stalbaum, 33.

ELLIOT SPAGAT (AP)

Sailor Who Survived Bombing of the USS Cole Dies

West Palm Beach, Fla.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Johann Gokool lost his left foot when a bomb ripped a hole in the side of the USS Cole nearly a decade ago, but the injury was nothing compared with the mental torment that ravaged him almost daily.

He returned home to Florida suffering severe post-traumatic stress disorder and frequent panic attacks so violent he would launch into seizures that fractured his wrist several times, sister Natala Gokool said Tuesday.

AP

Johann Gokool suffered from seizures after surviving the USS Cole attack.

One of the brothers he lived with found him dead in their home last Wednesday, just a week after his 31st birthday, Natala Gokool said.

Gokool was an electronic warfare technician aboard the Cole when bombers rammed a small boat packed with explosives into it on Oct. 12, 2000, in Yemen. Seventeen U.S. sailors were killed and 39 others injured. **BRIAN SKOLOFF (AP)**

BELLWETHERS

California scientists hope studying 180 black mussels pried from algae-covered rocks in San Francisco Bay will provide clues into how many drugs and chemicals are polluting waters around the country. Mussels filter water and store contaminants in their tissue, providing a record of pollution in the environment. The creatures are being culled from 80 sites in California as part of a pilot study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (AP)

Chinese Defiance Angers West

Execution of Briton highlights Beijing's newfound power

Beijing

China executed a British man for drug smuggling Tuesday, ignoring international pleas for clemency on the grounds he was mentally unstable and warning London that its outrage threatened relations.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said he was "appalled" by the execution — China's first of a European in nearly 60 years. But Beijing dismissed claims by relatives and rights groups that Akmal Shaikh's mental instability was exploited to lure him into smuggling heroin into the country.

Backstory

The execution of Akmal Shaikh, left, shown in Poland in 2007, was frustrating for Western observers because Shaikh's family and friends said he was mentally unstable at the time of his arrest. Shaikh's daughter, Leilla Horsnell, told the BBC on Tuesday that she was "shocked and disappointed that the execution went ahead with no regards to my dad's mental health problems." In China, however, there was overwhelming support for Shaikh's execution by lethal injection, which was seen as a simple matter of applying the law, Telegraph.co.uk reported. **(EXPRESS)**

Beijing's insistence in carrying out the death sentence reflects both the communist government's traditional distrust of foreign interference and its newfound power to resist Western pressure.

With its rising global economic and political clout, China appears increasingly willing to ignore Western complaints over its justice system and human rights record. China's leaders "feel freer than their recent predecessors to disregard world pressures," said Jerome Cohen, an expert on China's legal system at New York University.

Recent weeks have seen China flex its new muscle repeatedly.

Last week, a court sentenced Liu Xiaobo, the co-author of a political reform manifesto, to 11 years in prison in what rights groups called a rebuff to international pressure.

Earlier in the month, China urged Cambodia to halt a U.N. refugee screening process. Subsequently, Phnom Penh repatriated 20 ethnic Uighur asylum-seekers accused of roles in western China's unrest.

Whereas in the past, the West may have held out its approval as a carrot for China to improve its record on human rights, analyst Kerry Brown said now countries like Britain are eager to maintain ties.

"There is a feeling that we have very limited leverage on China," said Brown. **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN (AP)**

Somali Pirates Hijack Tanker, Cargo Vessel

Nairobi, Kenya

Striking into the heavily patrolled Gulf of Aden, Somali pirates seized a British-flagged chemical tanker — the first merchant vessel to be hijacked there in nearly six months, the same day that a ship was taken by brigands in the Indian Ocean, officials said Tuesday.

The double hijacking late Monday shows that, a year after an international naval armada began deploying off Somalia to protect shipping, piracy remains a problem. Monday's attacks occurred more than 1,000 miles apart.

Cmdr. John Harbour, the spokesman for the European Union's anti-piracy force, said the seizures were likely a coincidence. **(AP)**

Parisians Protest Iran's Government

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/AP

PROTESTERS HOLDING PHOTOS FROM SUNDAY'S deadly clashes in Tehran demonstrate against Iran's government outside the Iranian Embassy in Paris, France, on Tuesday. Iranian security forces intensified their crackdown on anti-government supporters, arresting relatives of the country's Nobel laureate and main opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi. Iran on Tuesday also accused the U.S. and Britain of fomenting the violence that killed at least eight people.

LOST & FOUND

Police in Rome on Tuesday said they had recovered Pablo Picasso's "Little Guitar" toy sculpture, which he made for his daughter Paloma. Picasso had given the toy to his friend, Italian artist Giuseppe Vittorio Parisi. Parisi lent it to a Roman businessman two years ago to build a glass showcase for it to be exhibited at the civic museum on Italy's Lake Maggiore. But police said the unnamed businessman never returned the work. He died in January. **(AP)**

In Brief

LEE JIN-MAN/AP

A South Korean watches a news broadcast about American Robert Park.

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

N. Korea Says American Detained for Illegal Entry

North Korea acknowledged Tuesday it had detained an American for illegally entering the reclusive country, news welcomed by relatives of Arizona missionary Robert Park, 28, who sneaked across the border on Christmas Day, carrying letters urging the country's absolute leader to step down. The two-sentence dispatch from the official Korean Central News Agency said an American was being investigated after "illegally entering" the country. **(AP)**

VIENNA

Report: Iran Attempts To Smuggle Uranium Ore

Iran is close to clinching a deal to clandestinely import 1,350 tons of purified uranium ore from Kazakhstan, according to an intelligence report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. Such a deal would be significant because, according to an independent research group, Tehran appears to be running out of the material, which it needs to feed its uranium enrichment program. **(AP)**

MOSCOW

Putin Urges U.S. to Share Data on Missile Shield

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Russia wants the U.S. to share detailed data about its planned missile shield under a new arms control treaty, signaling potential new difficulties in the ongoing negotiations between Moscow and Washington. Putin's televised remarks set a defiant tone as negotiators try to hammer out a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty that expired on Dec. 5. **(AP)**

World

Iraqi Gunmen Kill Five Sunni Security Guards

Baghdad

Gunmen killed five Sunni security guards — including one by beheading — in a gruesome pre-dawn slaying Tuesday at a village checkpoint in central Iraq, officials said.

The five victims were members of the Sons of Iraq, or Awakening Councils — a Sunni-dominated security force, now on the government payroll, that has been targeted in revenge attacks after helping turn the tide against al-Qaeda.

Authorities were alerted to the checkpoint in the village of Tal Massoud shortly after the 2 a.m. shooting, said one police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the attack with the media. The village is about 30 miles north of Baghdad. **(AP)**

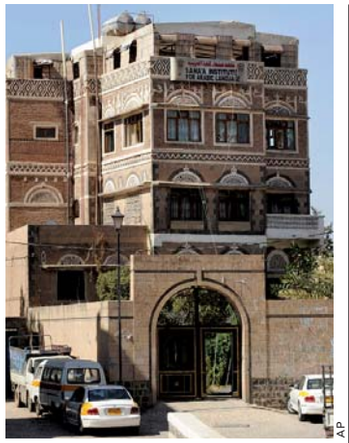
Yemen Probes Attacker's Past

Authorities trace travels of suspect in Christmas jet attack

San'a, Yemen

Yemeni investigators pieced together the movements and contacts of the Nigerian suspect in the botched Christmas Day airline attack, questioning the principal of a school where he studied for a second day on Tuesday.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab spent two extended periods in Yemen, as recently as this month, said Yemen's Information Minister Hassan al-Lozy. Investigators said he spent at least part of the time studying Arabic at a school in the capital of San'a, where students and administrators described him as friendly and outgoing with no overtly extremist views. As part of the investigation, the principal of a school where he studied was being questioned Tuesday.



AP

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab studied at this language school in San'a, Yemen.

Abdulmutallab told his parents only a few months ago that he wanted to study Islamic Sharia law, which his father told him he couldn't do. Abdulmutallab responsed with a text message from an unknown cell phone number saying he would never talk to his family again, Nigerian Information Minister Dora Akunyili said Tuesday.

300

The number of online postings Abdulmutallab likely wrote between 2005 and 2007 on the Islamic Forum Web site under the name "Farouk1986." In one post written in 2005, he said he was feeling "depressed and lonely."

U.S. authorities have been trying to determine how Abdulmutallab, 23, managed to board a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit with explosives even though he was flagged on a watchlist as a possible terrorist. U.S. officials have said he told investigators after his arrest that he received training in Yemen.

The Yemeni information minister said the U.S. never shared its suspicions about Abdulmutallab with Yemen, a largely lawless country that has turned into a key stronghold for al-Qaeda.

"We didn't get any notice from the Americans to put this man on a list," al-Lozy said. "America should have told Yemen about this man, as they have of others."

Abdulmutallab lived in Yemen for two different periods of time, a year from 2004 to 2005 and from August to December this year, he said. Abdulmutallab arrived in August after receiving a visa to study Arabic in San'a.

The San'a Institute for the Arabic Language told The Associated Press that Abdulmutallab was an Arabic student at the school in August. That has raised questions about what he did during the rest of his time in Yemen. **AHMED AL-HAJ (AP)**

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Dangerous Delays

Cost, mismanagement and privacy concerns slow efforts to upgrade screening

Washington

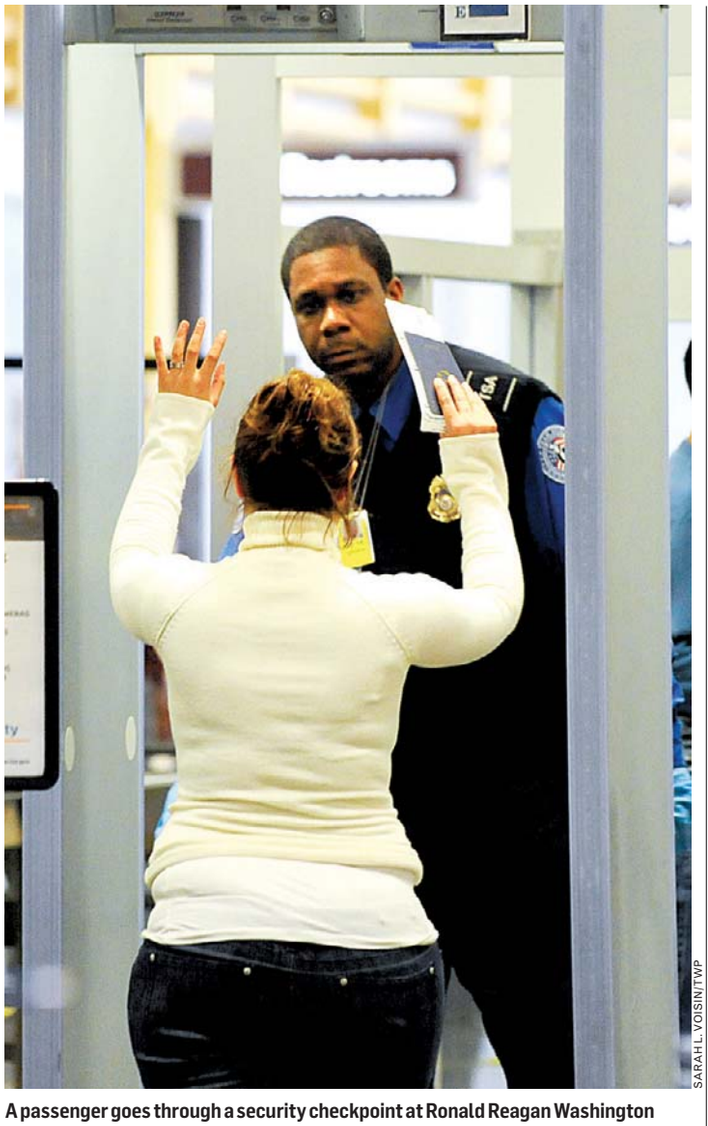
When alleged terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab casually boarded his flight for Detroit on Christmas Day, he unwittingly confirmed repeated warnings about the chronic, costly shortcomings of government efforts to create better systems to screen travelers for bombs, weapons and other threats.

The incident follows a long series of public and confidential government findings that the massive push for new high-technology systems often has fallen short, and that billions of dollars were being wasted on systems that do not work or are behind schedule.

In the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, federal officials pledged to use information technology to identify terrorists, while also creating new machines that would automatically detect explosives, sense whether passengers were lying, and scan other materials for threats.

The Department of Homeland Security and intelligence agencies have spent billions of dollars to develop security systems, including more than $795 million for development of high-tech checkpoint screening equipment.

But government watch lists failed to identify Abdulmutallab as a likely terrorist, even though his name was put in a government database after his father had warned officials that he could be a threat. And none of the high-tech screening equipment under development by the Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate was used to screen him.



SARAH L. VOISIN/TWP

A passenger goes through a security checkpoint at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. High-tech screening devices have been slow to arrive at airports.

According to government reports, mismanagement of research, concerns about privacy, the high costs of installation and, in some cases, opposition from industry and Congress have hindered the widespread deployment of at least 10 different screening systems at airports.

Instead, Abdulmutallab merely walked through a standard screening machine that cannot detect the type of plastic explosive that he allegedly carried in undergarments and tried to ignite aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253.

Additionally, a plan that would have helped focus the development of better screening technology and procedures — including a risk-based assessment of aviation threats — is almost two years overdue, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office.

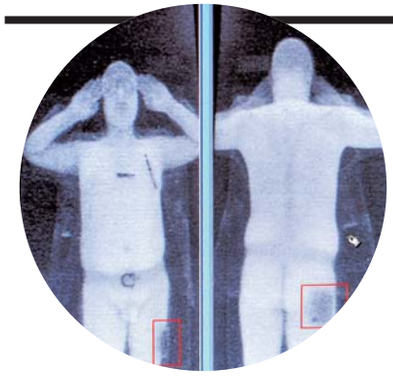
Homeland Security officials have acknowledged the setbacks but say they are committed to overcoming them. They said that mandates to minimize the impact of security on the aviation industry, the infrastructure challenges of installing equipment and persistent concerns about privacy have contributed to delays. At the same time, officials said, meaningful improvements have been made, including a cohesive workforce of screeners, better baggage detection equipment and a relatively quick screening process.

"Since 9/11, DHS and TSA have made significant improvements to aviation security technology. We are driven by the ever-evolving threat environment to have adaptable, flexible technology that can address multiple threats," said DHS spokeswoman Amy Kudwa.

ROBERT O'HARROW JR. AND SPENCER HSU (THE WASHINGTON POST)

"TSA cannot ensure that it is targeting the highest priority security needs at checkpoints."

— **A REPORT RELEASED THIS FALL BY GAO,** WHICH SAID THE TSA CAN'T ACCURATELY MEASURE HOW EFFECTIVELY ITS EQUIPMENT IS REDUCING TERRORISM RISKS. THE REPORT ALSO SAID THAT THE TSA HAS FAILED TO DELIVER A PLAN FOR UPGRADING ITS SECURITY.



THE PUSH FOR FULL-FRONTAL SECURITY

WHAT IT IS: High-tech security scanners that might have prevented the Christmas Day attempt to blow up a jetliner have been installed in only a small number of airports around the world. The machines screen airline passengers without physical contact and can reveal plastic or chemical explosives and nonmetallic weapons.

WHO HAS IT?: The body-scanning technology is in at least 19 U.S. airports, while European officials have generally limited it to test runs. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian accused of trying to ignite explosives aboard a Northwest Airlines jet, did not go through such a scan where his flight began, at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

PRIVACY CONCERNS: The technology has raised significant protests among privacy watchdogs because it can show the body's contours with embarrassing clarity. Jay Stanley of the American Civil Liberties Union said the machines essentially perform "virtual strip searches that see through your clothing and reveal the size and shape of your body." (AP)

Local

A Friend Request on Capitol Hill

Lawmakers learn how Facebook can improve their status

Washington

Inside the headquarters of the National Republican Congressional Committee, 25-year-old Adam Conner — a registered Facebook lobbyist and a guy whose profile photo is a grizzly bear wielding two chainsaws, sits down to teach a course. The subject: How to use Facebook better. His student: Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill.

"If we're going to improve our presence on Facebook and really maximize it, what would you recommend as tangible steps?" Roskam asks.

"It looks like you're very comfortable with your BlackBerry," Conner replies. "Maybe commit to a status message a day? Dive deeper. You'll be surprised at how things that seem routine to you are so interesting and cool to constituents."

BILL O'LEARY/TWP

Facebook lobbyist Adam Conner explains the benefits of social networking to Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill. Conner helps lawmakers maximize their online presence.

Conner is Facebook's evangelist in Washington, a social-networking pro summoned by elected officials and bureaucrats alike to teach them, free of charge, how to leverage Facebook — within strict government rules and security guidelines.

Conner launched Facebook's Washington bureau two years ago out of his apartment and is now one of three employees in the company's Dupont Circle office.

He believes that the savvier politicians become with social networking, the stronger democracy will be. "It's better for us to have as many points of view," Connor said. "Facebook is not a partisan platform."

One of the trickier parts of Conner's job is helping congressmen and their staffers figure out how to exploit Facebook without breaking ethics rules set by the House Committee on Administration. But perhaps the hardest part of Conner's job is persuading elected officials to reveal the oddball minutiae of their lives. Roskam, who updates his campaign and official Facebook pages along with his staffers, isn't so sure about posting items about his mundane doings.

> **"It's better for us to have many points of view. Facebook is not a partisan platform."**
>
> — **ADAM CONNER**, FACEBOOK LOBBYIST

"I am trying to think of what is interesting from a personal connection," the congressman said. "'I am going to the dry cleaners' — that's not interesting. 'Going over to the Ways and Means Committee'? You're sensing a little caution in my voice, because [I] really don't want to be that guy."

IAN SHAPIRA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Healthy Adult Volunteers Needed

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02-M-0003

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11th Street Bridge Work Underway

Washington

Drivers crossing the Anacostia River can see a big crane sitting on a barge between the 11th Street Bridges. Pretty soon, they'll see another one. The District Department of Transportation has begun building three new bridges between the two old ones.

The new bridges will forge the missing link that so vexes many commuters between Maryland, D.C., and Virginia.

And it will create a new link between neighborhoods on both sides of the river, while relieving them of some of the commuter traffic on local streets. Construction of the new bridges and removal of the old ones is scheduled to be done by late summer or fall of 2013.

ROBERT THOMSON/TWP

ROBERT THOMSON (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Dec. 29

District

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Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.)	2-4-9
Mid-day DC 4	0-5-1-1
Evening DC 4 (Mon.)	0-3-0-6
Mid-day D.C. Five	1-2-0-5-7
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.)	8-0-0-4-4
Daily 6 (Mon.)	2-12-20-23-26-29 (27)

Winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery claim location. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	9-0-3
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	1-0-7
Mid-day Pick 4	6-9-5-0
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	6-1-8-1
Match 5 (Mon.)	3-4-17-35-38 (25)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	0-6-8
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	5-5-2
Mid-day Pick 4	2-8-8-7
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	5-3-5-0
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	12-13-21-28-32
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	4-8-20-32-34

Sports

Caps Move On Without Captain

V

10 P.M. | CSN
Wednesday

The Capitals

Washington Capitals forward Brooks Laich squirmed from side-to-side, puffed his cheeks out and let go of a deep breath.

It was time to express his thoughts on the trade that sent his former captain and next door neighbor in the Capitals' locker room, Chris Clark, and defensemen Milan Jurcina to Columbus just hours earlier, and whether it had any effect on his team's performance in a 6-3 loss to Carolina Monday night.

"We're professionals, we understand it's a business," said Laich. "I don't think the trade had anything to do with the hockey game. Obviously they're very good friends and a huge part of our locker room ... but as far as taking away or distracting us during the game, that's not an excuse at all."

But the loss to the NHL's worst team had all the telltale signs of a group preoccupied with something other than the game at hand. Washington, the league's best first-period team, came out flat, allowing three goals and mustering just four shots on net.

Lost amid speculation about General Manager George McPhee's plans — whether another trade is likely or, as he claims, the acquisition of wing Jason Chimera "wasn't necessarily about cap space ... this was about the right move for the team" — is the relatively uncharted waters this nucleus of Capitals are entering with Wednesday's showdown in San Jose, the Western Conference's top team.

While players like Alex Ovechkin, Alexander Semin, Nicklas Backstrom, Mike Green and Laich have grown together through Game 7 losses in the Stanley Cup playoffs the past two seasons, never before have they seen one of their own — and certainly not their captain — leave so unexpectedly midseason. The team did acquire goalie Cristobal Huet, center Sergei Fedorov, and wing Matt Cooke at the 2007 trade deadline, and only Matt Pettinger was sent elsewhere.

Even before Monday's trade, coach Bruce Boudreau said his team would have to be "in survival mode" after getting blown out in San Jose, 7-2, last year. Now, though, with one leader and two friends gone, the question is how will the Capitals survive some newfound emotional adversity?

"It's gonna be a challenge, the travel, everything else, it's gonna be a challenge for this hockey team," admitted Laich. **MARK GIANNOTTO**

DARRYL DYCK/AP

Chris Clark, left, was the Capitals' team captain until he was traded on Monday.

Taking the Lead

With Chris Clark now in Columbus, the big question is: Who will be the Capitals' next captain? Alex Ovechkin, Brooks Laich and Mike Knuble are the best bets. Ovechkin, already an alternate captain, is an obvious choice given his status as two-time league MVP. Laich is seen by some as a captain-in-training because of the way he deals with the media, while the veteran Knuble is so respected in the locker room that he was namd alternate captain despite being a free agent acquisition . **(MG)**

In Brief

PRO FOOTBALL

Polamalu May Miss Finale

Steelers safety Troy Polamalu may not be ready to play Sunday in Miami. Polamalu, out for the last six games and most of a seventh with a left knee injury, began running in a straight line only Monday. He has yet to begun cutting, turning or twisting, moves needed to play in a game. **(AP)**

PRO FOOTBALL

Saints' McCray Arrested For Drunken Driving

New Orleans Saints defensive end Bobby McCray was arrested early Tuesday and charged with driving while intoxicated and other counts, police said. Police spokesman Gary Flot says McCray was stopped at about 4:30 a.m. Tuesday. McCray refused to take a breathalyzer test, another spokesman said. **(AP)**

BASEBALL

Bay Headed to the Mets

One of the top free agent prizes is headed to the Big Apple. Outfielder Jason Bay has agreed to a four-year, $66 million deal with the Mets, Espn reported Tuesday. He hit .267 with 36 home runs and 119 RBI in Boston last year. **(EXPRESS)**

TV Lineup

CAPITALS (10 P.M., CSN) Washington tries to rebound from its loss to Carolina against the San Jose Sharks.
COLLEGE FOOTBALL (4:30 P.M., 8 P.M., ESPN) Idaho will have the home crowd in its favor when facing Bowling Green in the Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, followed by Nebraska against Arizona in the Holiday Bowl.
TERPS HOOPS (7:30 P.M., CSN) Maryland takes on William & Mary.
MASON HOOPS (7 P.M., MASN) George Mason seeks a third-straight win when hosting Radford.
MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M., 9 P.M., ESPN2) Connecticut and Cincinnati tip off in Big East action, and Arkansas hosts Baylor.

Hearsay

"We have to play better than we did the last few weeks or we'll be home fairly quickly."

— **BRETT FAVRE,** WHO DOESN'T LIKE THE VIKINGS' CHANCES IN THE PLAYOFFS AFTER A LOSS TO THE BEARS.

Poll: Majority of Fans Favor a Playoff Over the BCS

College Football

A majority of college football fans want to scrap the current Bowl Championship Series and replace it with a playoff system that's similar to college basketball, according to a new national poll released Tuesday.

The Quinnipiac University survey shows 63 percent favor getting rid of the current system, while 26 percent want to keep it. When asked how much they liked the bowl game process, the poll showed fans are mixed.

"College football fans are not in love with the current system in which two teams that play for the national championship are picked by computers, sportswriters and coaches," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "Settle the question on the field, voters say more than two-to-one."

While more fans may favor a playoff system, they don't necessarily want Congress to get involved. The poll shows 48 percent believe it is a bad idea if federal lawmakers force college football to start a playoff system; 45 percent say it's a good idea.

Earlier this month, a House subcommittee approved legislation aimed at forcing college football to switch to a playoff system to determine its national champion. **(AP)**

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Sports

Zorn: No Sympathy for Campbell

Redskins coach says taking hits is part of being a quarterback

The Redskins

It was definitely worth asking Jim Zorn on Monday about Jason Campbell's postgame comments to Comcast SportsNet's Kelli Johnson. And the coach's response was especially interesting.

Zorn apparently didn't hear Campbell's say, "I'm very worried about the situation I've been put in. I've been hit so much, it's not even fair," but he still didn't need much time to consider his response. In short: He's not shedding a lot of tears over Campbell's plight.

"It's a tough game, played by tough men," Zorn said. "Nobody in the NFL, a player, is guaranteed comfort of anything. It's a hard game."

ROB CARR/AP

Jason Campbell takes a wicked hit in the Redskins' loss to the Cowboys on Sunday.

No one expected Zorn to lament the offensive line or praise Campbell for mustering the courage to put on his helmet each Sunday. After all, Campbell is being compensated handsomely for this very task. Still, Zorn's complete lack of sympathy for the situation was interesting, and I wonder if it doesn't have a bit to do with Zorn's personal history as a quarterback.

Campbell has been sacked 41 teams this season. Only three players have been sacked more often: Aaron Rodgers (50), Ben Roethlisberger (47) and Matt Cassel (42).

Zorn, a former quarterback in Seattle, played two seasons in which he was sacked 44 times, leading the league in the ominous category in 1978. Playing for the expansion Seattle Seahawks, behind a terrible line, Zorn knows what it's like to be knocked around a bit — and he knows how tough it is find your feet, get behind center and do it again. He also knows it's rare to be a starter in the NFL.

"I would bet if you went and interviewed him, he would not want it any other way," Zorn said of Campbell. "He would want to be the starting quarterback here regardless of it being fair or not fair. I think it's a real privilege, and it's a treat to be the quarterback of the Washington Redskins." **RICK MAESE (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

Bruins Bowled Over by the Cold

JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

UCLA WIDE RECEIVER Randall Carroll warms up his helmet during the first half of the second annual EaglBank Bowl at RFK Stadium on Tuesday. The Bruins' game in Washington's frigid conditions against Temple ended after Express' deadline.

Lawyer Backs Leach After Suspension

College Football

The lawyer for Mike Leach says the suspended Texas Tech coach did nothing wrong in how he treated a player with a "mild" concussion.

Ted Liggett says that keeping receiver Adam James inside during practice due to the injury was better for the player than letting him remain outside.

University officials suspended Leach on Monday while the school investigates complaints from James and his family about how the player was treated.

A person close to James with direct knowledge of the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity, contends the player was twice forced to stand in a small, dark place for hours while the team practiced. **(AP)**

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Bladensburg

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- Newly Renovated Apts. Available
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1Month Free Rent!!

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- Right on DC and Maryland line
- Close to Fort Totten & West Hyattsville Metro
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3BR 879

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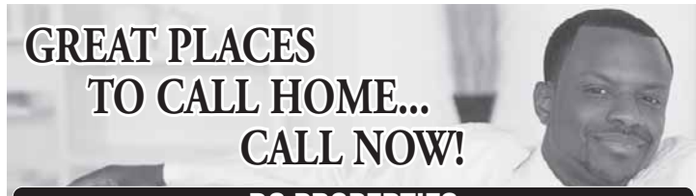
RENTALS



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- **FREE** App Fee
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1BR+ den and 2BR + den
Garden Style Apartments

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From $1,700

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ONE MONTH FREE RENT

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W/W carpet, Central Air/Heat, Dishwasher, Laundry facility, Free Parking

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Suitland, MD EHO

HUGE *Apartments*

1 BR $880
2BR $1025
3 BR $1250

- **Washer/dryer in all apts.**
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- **Large balconies for relaxing**
- **On Metro bus line**
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2 bedrooms starting at $825

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* Don't wait move in today!!! Units Ready!!

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RENT SPECIAL $950/mo*

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1, 2 ,3 bedrms available, some with dens.

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½ OFF 1ST MONTHS RENT

- ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED
- WALL-WALL CARPET
- THREE BLOCKS FROM SOUTHERN AVE. STATION
- READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

HURRY!!! LIMITED TIME

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- Free Brinks Alarm System

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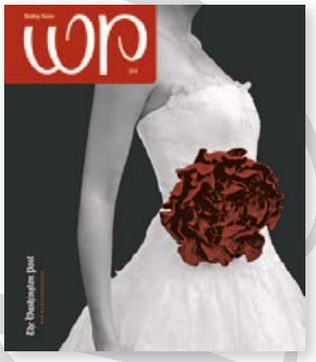

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lookout

A Name Shame
Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner have allegedly gone separate ways 27

Off the Cuffs

JULIA EWAN/TWP

A Terry Bad Decade in Style

If our main gripe about guys' fashion this past decade (per last week's column) is that everyone was overly manic about hipsterdom, then our biggest complaint for women is that they all too frequently confused "stylish" with "slovenly" (and, sometimes, "skanky"). The rise of Juicy Couture track suits — the clingy, candy-hued ensembles that, somehow, appealed to both aunt Rhonda in south Florida and Paris Hilton — helped usher in a new era of unsightly errors, from "whale tails" (the official term for the unfortunate, and usually intentional, combination of thong underpants and low-rise jeans) to the "boho" look, best represented by diaphanous dresses topped off with enormous sunglasses and the biggest latte money can buy.

By Betsy Lowther

Most of these fads have fizzled out, replaced — thank you, "Mad Men" and Michelle O. — with shapely silhouettes and manageable coffees. Only clunky, chunky Uggs still persevere, prompting us to imagine a scenario far in the future, when a grandchild curls up on our lap and asks, "Grandma, tell us again about when it was cool to walk around looking like you stuck two loaves of bread on your feet?"

@ Comments? Give Betsy your feedback: **expressnightout.com/offthecuffs**

DISNEY

Tiyana and Naveen of "The Princess and the Frog" dodge a killer drumstick in amphibian form. The soundtrack, too, is killer.

Stop, Look, Listen

The year's finest movie soundtracks can stand alone as musical works of art

Music

To sum up 2009, here's a look at some of the year's most prominent soundtracks and scores.

Avatar
JAMES HORNER (ATLANTIC RECORDS)

James Cameron's "Avatar" succeeds in introducing filmgoers to a new world; James Horner's score follows the filmmaker's lead. It's mood-setting music, at times full of wonder. Iridescent synths mix with woodwind instruments, and "The Bioluminescence of the Night" is New Age glitter.

The Princess and the Frog
VARIOUS ARTISTS (DISNEY)

Composer-songwriter Randy Newman channels the rich musical history of New Orleans through a fairy tale lens. There are flashes of gospel ("Dig a Little Deeper"), a swift Cajun waltz ("Gonna Take You There") and feather-light takes on early jazz ("When We're Human").

Black Dynamite
DISC 1: ADRIAN YOUNGE (WAX POETICS)
DISC 2: VARIOUS ARTISTS (WAX POETICS)

This modern blaxploitation spoof is teeming with music. Adrian Younge's 15-track score largely transcends silliness by lovingly recreating a vintage funk feel. A second disc, sold separately, is a treasure trove of 1970s temp music.

20TH CENTURY FOX

"Fantastic Mr. Fox's" music captures director Wes Anderson's quirkiness.

Fantastic Mr. Fox
VARIOUS ARTISTS (ABKCO)

Director Wes Anderson's whimsical style is just as present musically as it is visually, and "Fox" is one of his finest showcases on both fronts. Anchored by tender but sprightly sketches from Alexandre Desplat, the soundtrack veers into familiar but still fruitful territory.

Nine
VARIOUS ARTISTS (GEFFEN RECORDS)

"Nine" is a perfumed love letter to Italian cinema so the soundtrack can get a little cloying. But surrender to all the breathless vamping, drippy strings and faux Italian accents and the next thing you know, you'll be tempted to stand up in the middle of the office and sing about your inner Roman fantasy.

Precious
VARIOUS ARTISTS (MATRIARCH/GEFFEN)

Co-executive produced by Mary J. Blige, this soundtrack is an upbeat collection of self-discovery songs, modern-day gospel for the therapy crowd (Blige practically has the market cornered on that kind of thing).

Sherlock Holmes
HANS ZIMMER (WATERTOWER MUSIC)

Hans Zimmer doesn't give this holiday blockbuster a canny, heroic theme. He goes for something more challenging instead. There are plenty of short, furious violin notes, and there's also some devilish good fun, as instruments twist, screech and take unexpected left turns.

Up in the Air
VARIOUS ARTISTS (RHINO RECORDS)

Largely composed of entries from singer-songwriters, this souvenir from the recession-friendly film breaks its reflective mood with two selections from Rolfe Kent's fine score — his "Security Ballet" is an intoxicating mix of rhythms.

TODD MARTENS AND MARGARET WAPPLER (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

online now

expressnightout.com ▸▸ We talked trick hoops with "Buckets" Blakes of the Verizon-bound Harlem Globetrotters ▸▸ Diablo Cody's television show "United States of Tara" is so much better than her film "Jennifer's Body"; we reviewed the DVDs ▸▸ Join us on Twitter at Twitter.com/expressnightout

Attention High School Students

APPLY NOW FOR THE 2010 URBAN JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

As part of The Washington Post Young Journalists Development Program, we have partnered with the Washington Association of Black Journalists to give high school students in the Greater D.C. area an inside look at careers in journalism. Professional journalists from The Washington Post, the Associated Press, National Public Radio and other media companies serve as mentors. Over the course of the workshop that meets for eight consecutive Saturdays, our experts train students in the basics of real-life journalism through one of three media—newspaper, radio and TV. Students then produce a newspaper, and a television and radio news program. There is also an online component to each medium. Scholarships are awarded to seniors who have excelled during the workshop, showing strong research, reporting and writing ability. (There is no fee to apply or attend.)

When:

- February 27 - April 24
  9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  Students will meet at various sites in Washington, D.C.

Eligibility:

- High school students attending schools in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. All interested students are encouraged to apply.

Requirements:

- An interest in a journalism career and a command of the English language. Students must attend all eight Saturday sessions. Interested students must submit a written application, including writing assignments, parental/guardian approval and two recommendations from high school teachers and/or newspaper advisers.

Scholarships:

- One scholarship of up to $2,500 for a print student.
  One scholarship of up to $1,000 each for a radio and TV student.
  Scholarships will be based on an essay, stories produced in the workshop, class attendance and participation in all eight sessions.

Deadline:

- Completed applications should be addressed to:
  The Washington Association of Black Journalists
  P.O. Box 77130
  Washington, D.C. 20013

Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, January 16, 2010.

Students who are accepted will be notified the week of February 1, 2010.

To Apply:

- Download applications from www.ujwonline.org.
  You may also contact your high school journalism adviser.

For more information:

Lorrie Grant, UJW Coordinator:
703-220-6363
lorriegrant@yahoo.com

Mario Iván Oña, Washington Post/YJDP Director
240-515-6803
onam@washpost.com

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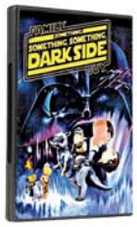
The Dark Side of 'Family Guy'

Seth MacFarlane explains how he spoofed 'Star Wars'

DVD

Seth MacFarlane, 36, created "Family Guy," Fox's animated sitcom, which this year was nominated for a prime-time Emmy. Fox just released the DVD "Family Guy: Something, Something, Something Dark Side," a follow-up to the 2007 "Blue Harvest" episode that spoofed the "Star Wars" franchise.



Why do an extended "Star Wars" parody?

Everybody knows "Star Wars" — at least, everybody in our audience. And Lucasfilm is probably the only company out there right now that is progressive enough to allow this. Certainly we would have a laugh doing this with "Indiana Jones" or "Wrath of Khan." But I can't imagine in a billion years that Paramount would give us permission.

So you actually cleared this with George Lucas?

The first episode came about because we were doing so many "Star Wars" gags that finally Fox's legal department said, "Hey, we got to start clearing this with Lucas or we're gonna get sued." We got very depressed and thought, "Well, this is it." But to our surprise, Lucasfilm said: "OK, you can do it, just make sure the characters look exactly like they do in the movies."

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Seth MacFarlane created a "Star Wars" parody "starring" the Family Guy cast.

But Stewie doesn't exactly look like Darth Vader.

Other than the distortion to fit Stewie's head, the helmet is pretty much the same. The Stormtroopers look like Stormtroopers.

Except yours are wearing mesh shirts.

Exactly. They're dressed a little gayer.

You have fun ridiculing Fox for letting Lucas take all the merchandising rights.

We actually didn't get a single studio note on that. Fox is notorious for having a very thick skin about taking shots at themselves.

You've made some powerful enemies along the way. The Parents Television Council consistently attacks your show.

I always thought it would be funny to have the Parents Television Council write an episode of "Family Guy" and give them full creative control.

How often do the Fox censors tell you that gags have to come out?

Very often. About half the jokes that are on our standards list in every episode don't make it.

You raised another firestorm by suggesting that Stewie is gay.

No, that was a journalist printing only part of the comment and making a story out of it. I said we had written an episode at one point in which Stewie comes out of the closet. But we scrapped it because we felt like we got a lot more mileage out of him being uncertain.

Carol Burnett sued you over a parody of her famous cleaning-lady character. Do you think she has a sense of humor?

I would certainly hope so. I was at the Creative Arts Emmys this year, and Carol Burnett was one of the presenters. And when she came out, everyone gave her a standing ovation, including me. It was a moment that you only get in Hollywood: Giving a standing ovation to somebody who sued you a year ago.

SCOTT COLLINS (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

Now Playing

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL (PG, 88 minutes) Call it a Christmas miracle, albeit a minor one: This movie isn't entirely awful. In fact, for its young (or merely immature) target audience, this sequel to the 2007 feature about an animated trio of singing rodents is better than the original. **(MO)**

AVATAR (pg-13, 161 minutes) It's a classic boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl romance. Is the dialogue corny? You bet. Does the movie go kerblooey in its final moments, during a ferocious, explosive firefight that will leave your eyeballs bleeding? Uh-huh. But director James Cameron has delivered what he promised with "Avatar": an ambitious, fully immersive cinematic experience. **(AH)**

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13, 126 minutes) There's been something off-putting about the ad campaign for this drama about a white woman who adopts a black high school student. It turns out the film is much better than its ads, largely because it's based on the true story of Michael Oher and Leigh Anne Tuohy. **(AH)**

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? (PG-13, 96 minutes) Whether they're dealing with a tame-looking grizzly bear or the strangely incompetent hit man (Michael Kelly) who's trying to rub them out, the Morgans whine. And if they're not having fun, how are we supposed to? **(MO)**

EVERYBODY'S FINE (PG-13, 95 minutes) This wistful, gently moving family

Continued on page 20

Top Stops

TOP STOPS COMPILED BY FIONA ZUBLIN. FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS, FOLLOW THE TOP STOPS BLOG AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/TOPSTOPS

1 Singin' Cowboys

Tonight, a cadre of local artists will pay homage to one of the great country musicians ever: Hank Williams. Bill Kirchen is among the musicians playing Williams' music and generally rocking out to old-school country, the kind that sounds a bit like folk music because back then ... folk lived in the country? The metaphor broke down there someplace. F.Z.. ***Birchmere, 3701 Mt Vernon Ave., Alexandria, Wed., Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m., $30; 703-549-7500, Birchmere.com.***

2 Depressionistas

The New Deal provided work for American artists, writers and actors during the Great Depression, and you can see where some of that dough went during the final days of "1934: A New Deal for Artists," an exhibit at the American Art Museum that showcases paintings made by artists working through the program. F.Z. ***Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th and F Streets NW; through Jan. 10; 202-633-1000, Americanart.si.edu. (Gallery Place)***

3 Watch The Step

Kerry Skarbakka takes pictures of himself. Specifically, he takes pictures of himself falling off things and falling into things. He's like the Cautionary Stick Figure Man, but real! Check out his exhibit, "Struggle to Right Oneself." F.Z. ***Irvine Contemporary, 1412 14th St. NW; through Jan. 30, free; 202-332-8767, Irvinecontemporary.com. (Dupont Circle)***

lookout entertainment

NowPlaying

Continued from page 19

drama stars Robert De Niro as Frank, a retired widower, who as the movie opens is eagerly preparing for a reunion with his grown children at Thanksgiving. When Frank's kids fail to show, he decides to visit them, embarking on a journey of often brutal self-discovery. **(AH)**

INVICTUS (PG-13, 133 minutes) Matt Damon plays the captain of the South African rugby team, which in 1995 won the World Cup. The movie tells the story of that unlikely and politically crucial victory, which as much as anything was the result of the gentle coaxing of the country's new president, Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman). **(AH)**

IT'S COMPLICATED (R, 119 minutes) As Jane and Jake — 10 years divorced and with three grown children, yet drawn back into each other's lives after a drunken fling – Alec Baldwin and Meryl Streep pick up the movie and run away with it. **(MO)**

NINE (PG-13, 120 minutes) "Nine" bounces into theaters as a bright, shiny bauble of cinematic self-reference, begging so insistently to be loved that it winds up pushing the audience away. "Nine" is about Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis), an Italian filmmaker who finds himself creatively blocked and preoccupied with the women in his life. **(AH)**

PRECIOUS (R, 109 minutes) Gabourey Sidibe inhabits the title character, Precious Jones, a morbidly obese 16-year-old who lives in 1980s Harlem. As the movie opens, she learns that she's pregnant with her second child; she is also encouraged to join an alternative education program, where she eventually finds love, acceptance and her own voice in a writing class. **(AH)**

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G, 95 minutes) Few movies have been greeted with as much anticipation — and outright apprehension — as Disney's first animated movie to feature a black princess. You can exhale now: The film is a triumph on every one of the myriad levels it has been asked to succeed on. **(AH)**

THE ROAD (R, 113 minutes) Like "No Country for Old Men," which is also based on a Cormac McCarthy book, this film's philosophical and aesthetic seriousness serve mostly to point out the essentially shallow mannerisms of their source material. Among McCarthy's blessings here is Viggo Mortensen, who delivers a haunting, deeply felt performance. **(MO)**

SHERLOCK HOLMES (PG-13, 125 minutes) The newest contribution to the world of Arthur Conan Doyle spinoffs is less a product of genuinely Holmesian DNA than, say, "Se7en." (Yes, there's a serial killer.) This "Holmes" is just about as silly as it awesome. **(MO)**

A SINGLE MAN (R, 99 minutes) Colin Firth plays George Falconer, a college professor living in Los Angeles in 1962. As "A Single Man" works its subtle magic, with George attaining an almost ecstatic vision of what it means to be alive, the movie takes on the momentum and narrative tension of a thriller. **(AH)**

UP IN THE AIR (R, 109 minutes) There are few things more sublime than George Clooney in his comfort zone, and when it happens, the best advice is to sit back, relax and enjoy the flight. In this case, literally. It is a smart, alert, supremely entertaining movie, in which Reitman toggles between comedy and drama, satire and soul, with the aplomb of hero pilot Chesley Sullenberger. **(AH)**

THE YOUNG VICTORIA (PG, 100 minutes) Lovers of pomp, pageantry and extravagant period detail will find themselves exceedingly well served by "The Young Victoria," a visually arresting film about the courtship of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. **(AH)**

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY AND MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

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ANN HORNADAY, THE WASHINGTON POST

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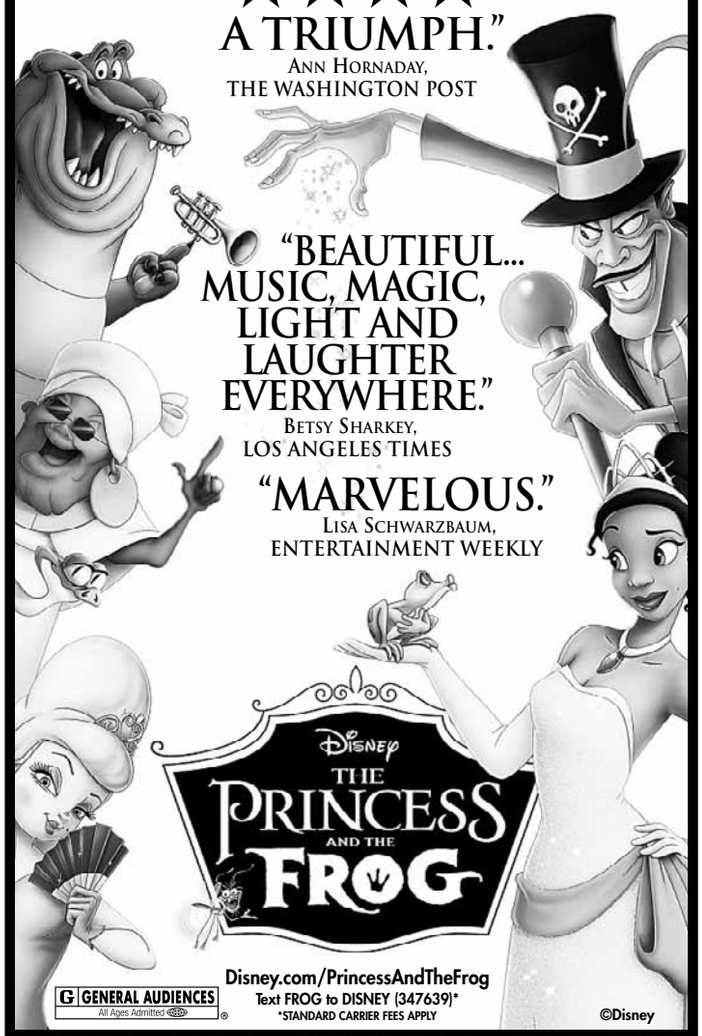
BETSY SHARKEY, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"MARVELOUS."
LISA SCHWARZBAUM, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



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TV tonight lookout

The Triumph of Talent

2009 proved that viewers appreciate high-quality TV

Year in Review

A glance back at the television of 2009 recalls a few unexpected triumphs and a major failure that virtually everyone saw coming.

Rarely does a single show become a wrecking ball for an entire network. NBC's decision to air "The Jay Leno Show" (NBC) five nights a week easily ranks as the worst move of year. Cynical, shortsighted and flagrantly cheap, it reflects corporate "thinking" at its worst.

The best new show, "Modern Family" (ABC) restored faith in the sitcom and proved that the fake-documentary format could transcend the merely sardonic to celebrate a shared humanity.

Arguably, the most memorable moment of the television year did not air on American television at all. Susan Boyle's debut on "Britain's Got Talent" became the YouTube clip seen 'round the world.

The Boyle moment showed how even the reality-TV genre, with its emphasis on exhibitionism and cruelty, could produce a Cinderella moment. This sentimental trend also helped "Glee" (Fox), a fantasy series that celebrates high school's outcasts, to become one of the more popular new series of the year.

As much as programmers try to sell cynicism and mean-spirited stupidity ("Jon & Kate," "Jersey Shore" and "Glenn Beck," to name a few) to a fragmented audience, viewers the world over still respond to talent, common hopes and the old-fashioned notion that you're never too old, too plain, too small-town or too shy to follow your dreams. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ABC

Phil (Ty Burrell), Claire (Julie Bowen) and their brood amuse in "Modern Family."

Best Bets

ABC 8:30 **The Middle** With financial disaster looming, Frankie (Patricia Heaton) organizes a publicity stunt involving a car filled with jelly beans in hopes of saving her job. Sue (Eden Sher) discovers she needs glasses after failing tryouts for the swim team.

CBS 8:30 **Gary Unmarried** Gary (Jay Mohr) tries to motivate the members of his bowling team when they make it into the championships, but instead he finds himself searching for a last-minute replacement when one team member quits.

CBS 9:00 **Criminal Minds** When a deadly virus is released into the air, a member of the BAU team has to act quickly and put himself at risk to find the source and catch the killer before any more innocent people are exposed to the lethal substance. Joe Mantegna, Thomas Gibson and Paget Brewster star in "Amplification."

CBS 10:00 **CSI: NY** Whoa, Bridezilla alert! Mac (Gary Sinise) and his CSI team investigate when young brides fight over a dress and one of the shoppers ends up dead. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Biographies

A Punk Life

In "Patti Smith: Dream of Life" ("P.O.V.," 9:30 p.m., PBS), fashion photographer Steven Sebring charts the career of the singer, poet and visual artist sometimes called "the godmother of punk." Smith brought her own ferocious swagger to the American counterculture, where she befriended and worked with some of its brightest lights. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

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WHEN: Feb. 1–26, 2010.

DETAILS: Based on double occupancy; single supplement is $380. Contact Applevacations.com.

FIVE NIGHTS IN SPAIN

$685 Receive round-trip airfare on British Airways between D.C. and Malaga, Spain; five nights' accommodations at your choice of five different four- or five-star hotels, including the seafront Gran Melia Don Pepe; breakfast daily; fuel surcharges; and hotel taxes and fees, from $685 per person — plus at least $145 in airport taxes and fees.

WHEN: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2, 2010; add $50 for Jan. 12, Mar. 9, 23; add $170 for Mar. 16.

DETAILS: Based on double occupancy; the single supplement is up to $140. All hotels include breakfast daily except at the Sol Principe, where you can add daily breakfast for $37 per person. Contact Gate1travel.com.

SIX NIGHTS IN LONDON

$859 Receive round-trip airfare between D.C. or Baltimore and London on Air France; six nights at the 46-room Apollo Hotel, less than a block from Hyde Park; breakfast daily; a hop-on, hop-off cruise along the Thames, with stops at the London Eye and Tower Bridge; fuel surcharges; and hotel taxes and fees, from $859 per person — plus $170 in airport taxes and fees.

WHEN: Jan. 4–Mar. 22, 2010.

DETAILS: Add about $66 per person for airport transfers. Based on double occupancy; single supplement is from $150. Contact Airfrance-holidays.com.

From Budget Travel Magazine

FIND MORE DEALS & TRIP-PLANNING TIPS AT BUDGETTRAVELONLINE.COM.

Hit the Southern Slopes

North Carolina ski resorts revel in an early blast of snow

Destinations

Skiers in North Carolina have an unusual treat this year: The Blue Ridge Mountains are dressed in winter white from an early snowstorm coating native rhododendrons in iridescent crystal ice and creating a solid base on the slopes. The ski resorts and snow guns are going full bore.

The largest and best known ski areas are Sugar Mountain and Ski Beech, along with nearby Appalachian Ski Mountain that has a run playfully called "Candied Appal."

These areas boast well-groomed trails, crisp, clean air and views that won't quit. At the tops of these mountains, you'll see the eponymous blue-gray haze swirling around gently undulating peaks. Beginners have no trouble finding ample room and more than enough runs to keep them busy.

A couple hours away are Wolf Ridge ski area and Cataloochee, which offers skiing in the winter and horseback vacations in the summer. The elevations range from about 4,000 to nearly 6,000 feet.

"It's all about having fun here," Cataloochee's Tammy Brown said.

These ski spots offer much more than skiing. There's snow tubing, ice skating — Sugar has a 10,000-square-foot outdoor rink — and even zip-lining. Nearby Hawksnest describes itself as the biggest snow tubing center in the east with 20 lanes.

This season was jump-started. Just ahead of the winter solstice, a big storm blew in, sending up to 2 feet of snow across ski country.

But snow can be unreliable in this part of the Blue Ridge. If snow turns to slush, there's plenty to do off the slopes — and all within an easy drive. In an hour or two, you can hit discount furniture stores, soak in a hot mineral bath in the woods and even visit the village of Blowing Rock, where legend says it snows upside down. SOFIA MANNOS (AP)

SUGAR MOUNTAIN/TODD BUSH/AP

A snowboarder rides a rail on a peak at Sugar Mountain ski resort in North Carolina.

washingtonpost.com

Want to take a ski vacation closer to home? Find information on more than a dozen area ski resorts at washingtonpost.com/skiguide.

Make Time Fly, Even if You're Grounded

A few airports offer original attractions to entertain travelers

Destinations

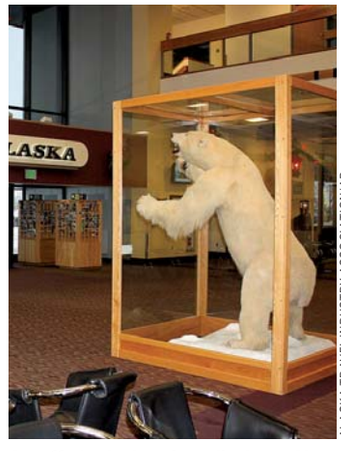
With the latest terrorist incident over U.S. skies, air travelers are more on edge than usual and security lines are even longer. But if you're looking for something to distract yourself from all the worries and the waiting, a few airports actually offer unique attractions.

Not that it will make the lines shorter, but checking out the stuffed wildlife at the Anchorage airport might just bring a smile to your face on an otherwise stressful day.

LAS VEGAS: You don't have to go all the way to the Strip to gamble in Vegas. McCarran Airport has nearly 1,300 slot machines, and they generated over $30 million in revenue for the airport in the last fiscal year, according to airport spokesman Chris Jones.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA: Ask for directions at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and somebody might just tell you to take a left at the polar bear. The taxidermied animal towers over passers-by in the North Terminal. Other wildlife on display there includes a ram and a 400-pound halibut.

AUSTIN, TEXAS: If you're heading to Austin, chances are you'll be checking out the music scene. But you don't have to wait until you get into the city to hear a local band. At the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, 11 live performances are offered each week for ticketed passengers, located on a stage in the center of the terminal building on the concourse level. BETH J. HARPAZ (AP)



ALASKA TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION/AP

A stuffed polar bear is on display at Alaska's Anchorage International Airport.

Bubbly, Bubbling on the Stove

Champagne brings fizz to risottos and roasts as well as to New Year's toasts

Cooking

GETTY IMAGES

Whether New Year's Eve means spooning on the sofa or sashaying at a swank bash, rituals rule the night (midnight kisses, Dick Clark's grin). Yet nothing says "Howdy, 2010!" like the pop of a cork. Fizzy wine on Dec. 31 is as inevitable as dashed resolutions by MLK Day. But bubbly doesn't just belong in clinking flutes. Chefs say Champagne (or any sparkler) brings flair to food, too.

"Champagne always feels luxurious in cooking," says Katie Lee, ex "Top Chef" host and author of "The Comfort Table" ($26, Simon & Schuster). "A dish with bubbly in its name makes guests go 'oooh.'" Lee poshes up gelatin by subbing sparkling wine for the water (think grown-up Jell-O shots).

Champagne's cachet stems from an elite pedigree. Legally, only sparkling wine produced in France's Champagne region can bear the C-word. Still, for an exclusive elixir, Champagne is versatile, says personal chef Paul Schneider (Chefpaulcooks.com). "There are many different ways to cook with it."

Schneider teaches an annual December class on cooking with Champagne at Bethesda's L'Academie de Cuisine. This year, his menu included shitake-leek-Champagne soup (see right), salad in Champagne vinaigrette, grouper in Champagne sauce and caramelized apples with cake and Champagne sabayon (sweet custard).

French laws aside, Champagne is, simply, wine that sparkles. And like vino, bubbles — be they Spanish cavas or Italian proseccos — complement each dish, says Sebastian Zutant, sommelier at Proof (775 G St. NW; 202-737-7663). He likes zesty Champagnes with salads or carpaccio and richer, Chardonnay-based Blanc de Blancs with pasta (try Virginia's Thibaut-Janisson). Similar ideas work cooking with champers: Kick up vinaigrettes with light sparklers; use heavier blends in main-dish sauces.

Still, some pros believe boiling Champagne falls flat. "I don't cook with Champagne. Its beauty is effervescence. Once heated, it becomes still," says Bryan Moscatello, executive chef of Stir Food Group (Stirfoodgroup.com), a family of D.C. restaurants including Potenza and Zola. On the other hand, Moscatello thinks pouring sparklers into a sauce makes sense if you sip from the same bottle at dinner.

Chef Ris Lacoste, who just opened an eponymous resto in D.C.'s West End (2275 L St. NW; 202-730-2500), suggests always cooking with the type of wine you plan to have with your meal. "Look for a connect between drinking the glass and eating the food," she says. Sometimes she subs Champagne for white wine in risotto.

"Champagne always feels luxurious in cooking. A dish with bubbly in its name makes guests go 'oooh.'"

Nicholas Stefanelli, chef at new Italian cafe Bibiana (1100 New York Ave.; 202-216-9550), uses prosecco (Italian sparkling wine) to deglaze roasted dorade, then splashes more on the fish just before serving.

But perhaps the easiest trick? "Pour Champagne over sorbet," says chef Tracy O'Grady, of Arlington's Willow (4301 N. Fairfax Dr.; 703-465-8800). "You get bubbles and acidity, and if you do sorbet in a color, it will fizz and bleed."

Sure, Jan. 1 grogginess may be as inevitable as obnoxious noisemakers at U Street bars. Just be sure supper isn't the culprit by buying better bubbly. "Good Champagne is a necessary indulgence," Lee says. "There's nothing worse than a headache from the cheap stuff."

KATIE KNOROVSKY

Recipe File

ISTOCK

SHIITAKE-LEEK-CHAMPAGNE CREAM SOUP

Serves 6

Ingredients

3 TBSP butter
2 LBS cleaned and cut leeks
1 medium onion, chopped
½ TSP pepper
½ TSP cayenne
¼ TSP basil
¼ TSP thyme
¼ TSP oregano
1 LB Shiitake mushrooms, thinly sliced with stems removed
½ CUP sundried tomatoes. sliced
6 OZ dry Champagne
2 CUPS chicken or vegetable stock
1 CUP cream
2 OZ Gouda cheese, shredded
1 TSP salt or to taste

In pre-heated pot, melt butter, cleaned leeks, diced onions and about ½ tsp. of salt and sauté until clear and translucent, about 10 minutes. Add spices and stir; let cook for a minute or two. Add mushrooms and tomatoes and cook for about five minutes or until mushrooms have softened. Deglaze pan with about 2 oz of Champagne and bring to a simmer. Add 2 cups of chicken or vegetable stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and add cream. Let reduce for about 10 min. Stir in remaining Champagne and cheese. Add remaining salt or to taste and serve.

FROM CHEF PAUL SCHNEIDER OF CHEFPAULCOOK.COM

lookout online

Poll Center

Today's Question

IS IT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS WITH AIRPORT SCREENINGS?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Tuesday's Results

HAVE YOU EVER FOLLOWED THROUGH ON A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

"Yes, but only the one I made many years ago to never make another New Year's resolution. It has worked well for me as I try to better myself all year long and not just at the holidays."

COMMENTER MFERGUSON

"You need to stop making your resolution to lose weight and make it something you will enjoy. I made mine this year to try 25 new beers and currently sit nicely at 52."

COMMENTER ALEX35332

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

Blog Log

"CBS may as well rename this 'The Sheldon Show,' because the moment Jim Parsons leaves or gets hit by a bus or something, that's pretty much it for the series."

— **THEDCUNIVERSE.BLOGSPOT.COM** CONSIDERS CBS' 'THE BIG BANG THEORY' ONE OF HIS TOP 5 SHOWS OF 2009.

"Um, if you need proof that the 2010 NHL Winter Classic is important to hockey fans, just look at ticket prices at StubHub. The cheapest ticket at this very second is $268/ticket and will get you a seat piece of concrete in Standing Room Only."

— **BUSTEDCOVERAGE.COM** IS FEELING THE BUZZ FOR THE JAN. 1 GAME BETWEEN THE PHILADELPHIA FLYERS AND BOSTON BRUINS, WHICH WILL BE PLAYED AT FENWAY PARK.

"YOU KNOW WHAT WAS so 2009? Television in HD. You know what is so 2010? Television in HD and 3D. Will 3D be the new buzz word of the 2010 television market? We will see."

— **BOYGENIUSREPORT.COM** THINKS THAT DIRECTV'S PLAN TO LAUNCH A HIGH-DEFINITION 3-DIMENSIONAL CHANNEL NEXT YEAR COULD REVOLUTIONIZE TELEVISION.

"We finally [have] some proof of the administration literally being in bed with the media."

— **JAMMIEWEARINGFOOL.BLOGSPOT.COM** WAS QUITE INTRIGUED BY THE UPCOMING WEDDING OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET DIRECTOR, PETER ORSZAG, AND ABC FINANCIAL REPORTER, BIANNA GOLODRYGA.

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Horoscope

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Prospects are good, but there are certain details you have to work out right away before the current situation begins paying off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) What goes on behind the scenes may actually be more important than anything you can legitimately do out in the open.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Caution is advised during the first part of the day, when you are trying to figure out what your first move should be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Dangers lurk in places you don't normally go, but you may have to explore one or two of them on your own. Do you have an escape route?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It is possible to plan for the unexpected. You'll want to do exactly that before progressing with a plan that could upset someone who is important.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's a good time for you to talk with someone you trust about a situation that may be too much for you to handle alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) With a little extra effort, you should be able to undo a complicated situation and redo it in a fashion that you can more easily manage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You're likely to have doubts about someone else's motives. You don't have to understand everything in order to get along.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be cautious of anything that could come at you from behind. Avoid presenting your vulnerable side to those who could do you harm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Progress may be slower than expected, but it's still progress. By day's end, you'll be able to count your gains.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It's a good time to engage in negotiations with someone who can do you a few favors, provided you're willing to do a few in return.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You can capture the imagination of someone who is at a standstill. The result can prove surprisingly beneficial to both of you.

PostPoints DAILY CODE L A

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 150-160, BEST SCORE 226

								RACK 1
A1	I1	O1	X8	L1	M3	B3	Double Word Score	
								RACK 2
A1	O1	O1	N1	S1	S1	B3		
								RACK 3
A1	E1	T1	L1	N1	C3	C3	1st Letter Triple	
								RACK 4
A1	E1	Y4	H4	R1	T1	B3		

Yesterday's Solution

S1	W4	O1	L1	L1	E1	N1	RACK 1 = 60
A1	L1	B3	I1	N1	O1		RACK 2 = 14
B3	L1	U1	E1	J8	A1	Y4	RACK 3 = 88
D2	U1	R1	A1	B3	L1	E1	RACK 4 = 60

PAR SCORE 145-155 TOTAL 222

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

		1			4			2
4		5		9				
	9							
	1			6		4		3
	6		9		8		7	
7		9		2			5	
							1	
				3		7		6
6			1			5		

Yesterday's Solution

7	1	5	6	9	3	8	2	4
9	8	4	5	1	2	7	6	3
6	3	2	8	7	4	5	9	1
1	6	8	7	5	9	4	3	2
4	7	9	3	2	6	1	8	5
5	2	3	1	4	8	9	7	6
2	9	6	4	8	1	3	5	7
8	4	7	2	3	5	6	1	9
3	5	1	9	6	7	2	4	8

Need more Suldoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS

Forecast

40 | 31

Today: Mostly sunny today. Rather cloudy tonight.

42 | 36

Tomorrow: A bit of rain and ice tomorrow morning, then rain and drizzle.

Looking Ahead

FRI	SAT	SUN
37 | 26	35 | 21	35 | 20

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:26 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:55 p.m.
Moonrise today: 3:44 p.m.
Moonset today: 6:20 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 44
Record high: 75
Normal low: 29
Record low: 2

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

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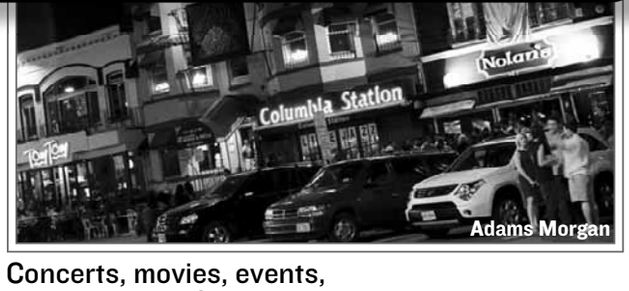

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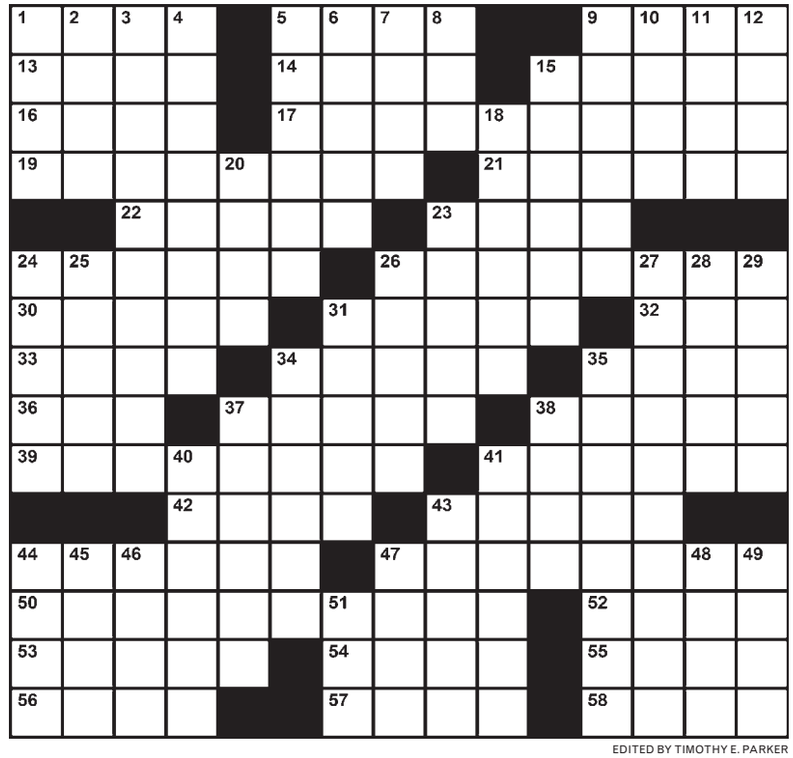
Crossword

TIME IS ON YOUR SIDE



EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

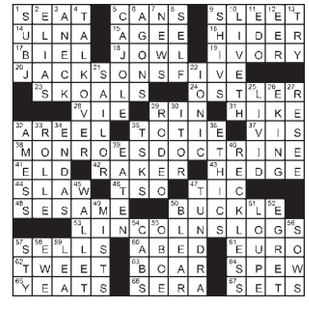
ACROSS

1 Abounding
5 Complete makeover
9 1984 Summer Olympics boycotter
13 Poet Aukrust
14 Zatopek or Jannings
15 Bill featuring Franklin, slangily
16 ___-en-scene (stage setting)
17 55 or 65, often
19 Nation lovers
21 Cafeteria customers
22 "Peter Pan" girl
23 Capital punishment?
24 Items of apparel for Dracula
26 Piece of scenery
30 "The ___ of Flatbush" (Stallone flick)
31 Aids for Holmes
32 Yellowfin tuna
33 "Addams Family" adjective
34 Has the potential to
35 Autumn birthstone
36 Take unfair advantage of
37 It can be monotonous
38 Wail from a bagpipe
39 Negligent
41 Marks over N's
42 Skin eruption
43 Famed Miami resort
44 Regard highly
47 Upstage
50 Busy exec's meal break
52 Great burden
53 Arm bones
54 "I ___ man with seven wives ..."
55 Prescribed drugs, informally
56 Taproom offerings
57 "Back to the Future" destination
58 Aboard a liner

DOWN

1 Easy win, in the sports section
2 Skating gold medalist Kulik
3 Energetic employee
4 Big name in batteries
5 Does a landscaper's job
6 Containing nothing
7 Goes out, as a fire
8 Grand ___ Opry
9 American airline
10 Amount between all and none
11 Chef's direction
12 Moistens flax
15 Chain sounds
18 Cleared, as a frozen windshield
20 They're kept in pens
23 Quake locale
24 Cirrus, for one
25 Like a successful dieter's clothes
26 Painfully forthright
27 Some express trains
28 Chicago touchdown site
29 Pharmacy supply
31 Gridiron figure
34 Stoneworker's tool
35 State with a panhandle
37 Sci-fi author Arthur C.
38 Knighted ones
40 Author Jong, et al.
41 "I'll drink ___"
43 They bring tears to one's eyes
44 Bluish-green shade
45 Needing stropping
46 Vein locale
47 "...____ penny, two ..."
48 How to skinny-dip
49 She, in Roma
51 Baseball arbiter, for short

Yesterday's Solution



Today in History

1972 The United States, with war opposition only increasing, halts its heavy bombing of North Vietnam.

1993 Israel and the Vatican establish full diplomatic ties.

2006 Saddam Hussein, 69, the dictator who ruled Iraq for a quarter-century and was driven from power by a U.S.-led war that left his country in shambles, is executed.

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people lookout

PROCEEDINGS

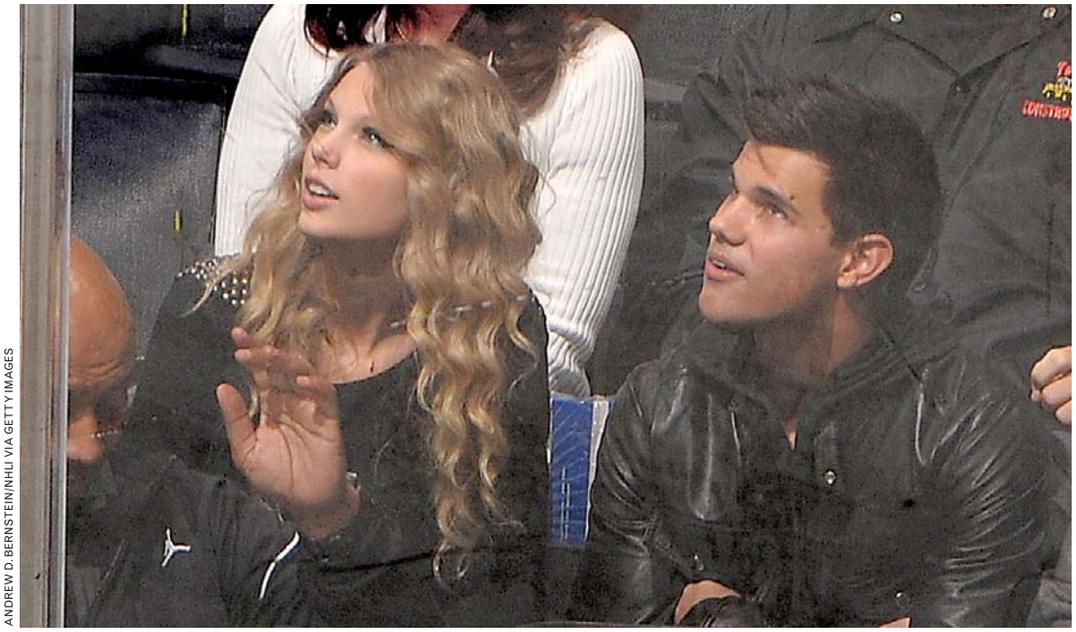
Open ... Like My Shirt

Bristol Palin has lost her bid to keep her dispute with her son's father confidential. An Alaska judge denied her request to keep the legal proceedings of her custody battle with Levi Johnston closed. Palin argued that the case will turn into a "media circus" that could cause her son embarrassment as he grows older. Johnston, who is seeking joint custody, has pushed for open court proceedings. (AP)

SENSATIONS

Japan Catches Up With Rest of the World

Susan Boyle arrived at Tokyo's international airport Tuesday to prepare for a guest appearance on Japan's premiere vocal variety show, which will be aired live on New Year's Eve. Boyle smiled as she greeted a mob of photographers at the airport, but declined a request for an impromptu song. She is scheduled to sing her trademark "I Dreamed a Dream" from "Les Miserables." (AP)



ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/NHLI VIA GETTY IMAGES

The way this photo is configured gives Taylor Swift both angel wings and man-hands. Taylor Lautner just looks like a doofus.

SPLITS

Taylor Halved

Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner have split, Usmagazine.com reported. "It wasn't really developing into anything, and wasn't going to, so they decided they were better as friends," an unnamed source told Us. Even worse: "He liked her more than she liked him," the source said. "He went everywhere he could to see her, but she didn't travel much to see him." (EXPRESS)

Dirtbag Digest

Wow. That's ... Terrible

Charlie Sheen's wife told police the actor pinned her on a bed, put a knife to her throat and threatened to kill her in a Dec. 25 fight in Aspen, Colo., that began when she said she wanted a divorce. She said Sheen told her: "You better be in fear." (AP)

RICHARD DREW/AP

So what if you die before your child finishes college? He'll have money.

AGING

Babies Generally Do Look Like Old People, Yes

Van Morrison, 64, says on his Web site that he and his wife, GiGi, welcomed their son, George Ivan Morrison III, on Monday. The couple says that "Little Van" is "the spitting image of his daddy." The baby is a dual citizen of the United States and United Kingdom. (AP)

"for all the negative nellies out there, I DID not have a f...ing photo op with my kids at a park when there is drama u get followed more"

—**DENISE RICHARDS**, ON ACCUSATIONS THAT SHE LET HER CHILDREN BE PHOTOGRAPHED TO SHOW HOW WELL THEY'RE DOING WITHOUT DAD CHARLIE SHEEN.

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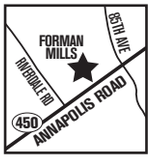

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